FACT SHEET

HANFORD: A CASE FOR CONVERSION & REUSE

Office of Worker & Community Transition

Background and Challenges

The Hanford Site in Richland, Washington is the largest environmental restoration effort in the world today. Hanford began its environmental restoration mission in 1991 when its plutonium production reactors were shutdown after 40 years of operation. Much of the site remains contaminated by chemical and radioactive waste, prompting Hanford to actively engage in a massive environmental cleanup and restoration project. As a result of this new mission, Site employment peaked at 16,952 prime contractor employees in FY 1994. As the mission shifted from defense production to environmental restoration, work force restructuring became necessary. By the end of FY 1998, Hanford experienced a 35 percent reduction in employment and a total of 5,968 jobs were lost.

The Path to Progress

In May 1994, the Tri-City Industrial Development Council (TRIDEC) was designated as the Hanford Community Reuse Organization. TRIDEC's goal is to help the community become self-sustaining and less dependent on the Department of Energy (DOE) by recruiting new businesses to the area, creating more jobs, and transferring Hanford Site resources to the community for reuse. Over the past four years, TRIDEC program activities have helped create a total of 1,446 jobs, with an additional 2,000 predicted by the year 2001.

An employee of the Applied Process Engineering Laboratory (APEL) in Richland, Washington, performing a chemical analysis.

Community Success Stories

For its new company recruitment effort, TRIDEC has hosted numerous community site visits and is currently assisting 30 companies with their relocation decision processes. TRIDEC's support of relocation and expansion activities for new companies in the area has resulted in creating 497 jobs in the Tri-City community. Highlighted below are additional DOE funded TRIDEC program activities and Richland Operations Office activities that have successfully created jobs and promoted asset reuse.

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Site Reuse Creates Jobs

- TRIDEC funded the Applied Process Engineering Laboratory (APEL), a technology incubator located in a modified excess facility. APEL contains over 14,000 square feet of wet labs and clean rooms, 20,000 square feet of business start-up bays, and 20,000 square feet of permitted high bay development space. Over 50 percent of APEL is occupied by six new companies and the Pacific Northwest Laboratory. Sixteen new high-tech jobs have been created and 175 jobs are expected to be created by 2001.
- TRIDEC funded the Entrepreneur Support Network that has created approximately 537 jobs. The projects provided feasibility and business plan development classes, seminars, and workshops to business owners as well as an Office Resource Center for participant use.
- TRIDEC's support of the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau's Tourism, Marketing & Development Program has resulted in creating 173 jobs through new visitor spending.

Site Reuse Results in Cost Savings for DOE

- Hanford Site's "1100 Area" was transferred to the Port of Benton in September 1998. The 768 acres of land and 26 buildings in this area are in the process of being used or marketed to various businesses.
- This transfer included a building and rail yard to the Port of Benton for reuse by the Livingston Rebuild Center, a major locomotive repair company. This arrangement has resulted in creating 9 jobs and as many as 50 local, non-Hanford jobs are projected within the next three years. The transfer will also reduce site mortgage costs and generate lease revenues.

An aerial view of a portion of Hanford's 1100 Area, transferred to the Port of Benton.

Contact Information

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